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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF PETERBOROUGH.

Annual Report

For the Year 1925,


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Inspector of Nuisances.

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Peterborough Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the year 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1925, compiled in accordance with the suggestions contained in the appendix of a circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA 35,169 acres.

POPULATION 9,905 (R.G.) 9,664 (Census 1921).

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE
DISTRICT :—

The district lies between the River Welland on the North and the River Nene on the South : about three fourths of the area drains into the Welland and the remaining fourth into the Nene.

The Western and Southern part of the area is gently undulating in character, while the North-Eastern part is Fen Land.

The highest point is shown on the Ordnance Map as 176 feet above datum, at a spot on a bye-road near the hamlet of Upton, while the lowest spot is on the Eye to Crowland Road, and marked as 5.8 feet.

The soil in the " highland " part of the district is poor and of no depth, whereas in the fen-land part it is good as a whole, though gradually shrinking through cultivation and drainage, so that as it is termed locally, " the clay is working up."

The District is surrounded by the following Rural or Urban District.

R.D. Bourne Lincs. Part of Kesteven C.C.

R.D. Crowland Lincs. Parts of Holland C.C.

R.D. Thorney Cambs. Part of the Isle of Ely C.C.

R.D. Whittlesea Cambs. Part of the Isle of Ely C.C.

Borough of Peterborough, Northants. Part of Soke of Peterborough C.C.

U.D. Fletton Hunts. Part of Hunts C.C.

R.D. Norman Cross Hunts. Part of Hunts. C.C.

R.D. Stibbington Hunts. Part of Hunts. C.C.

R.D. Barnack Northants. Part of Soke of Peterborough C.C.

The population is in great part agricultural, though there are two large Engineering Works, a Paper Factory, and two Brick-yards in the District. All the employment is of a reasonably healthy type, and not prone to produce any particular industrial diseases.

On the whole the population can find steady work, though the nature of it may vary slightly, some workers changing from land work to the brick-yards or to engineering according as the demand for labour in these industries varies.

THE NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921) 2506.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921) 2520.

RATEABLE VALUE £56140.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE £236.

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
BIRTHS	161	78	83
	7	2	5
	—	—	—
	168	80	88

BIRTH RATE 16.95 per 1,000 population.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
DEATHS	113	53	60

DEATH RATE 11.41 per 1,000.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Males.	Females.
Total	6	3
Illegitimate	1	1

Rate per 1,000 Births 53.57.

The Table shows the figures relating to Vital Statistics for the past Five Years :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Population	9530	9664	9797	9936	9905
Births	218	219	200	194	168
Birth Rate	22.66	22.66	21.43	19.52	16.95
Deaths	99	117	98	117	113
Death Rate	10.36	12.106	10.003	11.17	11.41
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	11	12	9	12	9
Rate per 1000 Births	56.87	54.78	42.8	61.8	53.57

The Amount of Poor Law Relief. About 130 people on the Area are drawing weekly relief—at a cost of £60 to £70.

The Extent to which Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief are utilized.

The Peterborough Infirmary and Dispensary is freely made use of by the inhabitants of the district when circumstances require it,

either by admission to the wards, more especially for surgical cases, or for Out-patient treatment : the Poor Law Institution (Thorpe Road House) is usually full as regards it's Infirmary, though it is impossible to state how many of the patients come from the Rural district without elaborate examination of the books or case papers of these Infirmaries.

There are five Poor Law Medical Officers for the district, two of whom reside in Peterborough, one at Crowland, one at Thorney and one at Deeping Gate : these officers attend those persons to whom " orders " have been given by the Relieving Officers, usually old age pensioners or widows with families, or where there is a big family and the father does not earn enough to pay his way.

The Soke of Peterborough C.C. maintains a Tuberculosis Dispensary and a Venereal Clinic, at which residents in the district can obtain treatment and advice : the same authority employs a part-time Medical Officer who acts as School Medical Officer, County M.O.H., Medical Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts, as well as being responsible for the Tuberculosis work and V.D. Clinic. The rest of his time is spent in fulfilling similar duties for the Rutland C.C.

Any Specially Noteworthy Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

There was a limited outbreak of Small Pox in the district in May which is alluded to later.

Infectious Diseases are dealt with later, but in passing it may be mentioned that 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, of which 17 occurred in three families ; 18 cases of Pneumonia were notified. For three months Chicken Pox was made a notifiable disease and 25 cases were notified by doctors.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Your Council does not provide or subsidise any General Hospital nor any Tuberculosis, Maternity, Children's, Fever, or other Hospital though it has entered into an arrangement with the Borough of Peterborough Council regarding the Small Pox Hospital.

The General Hospitals available for residents in the district are :— The Peterborough Infirmary and Dispensary, contains 75 beds, to which 852 patients were admitted during 1925, and the number of Out-patients and Casualties treated was 2,575, making a total of 3,427 patients dealt with during the year. There were 640 surgical cases, and 530 major operations were performed. Medical cases admitted numbered 212 . A New Hospital is in course of erection, in which provision is being made for 100 beds.

The Stamford Infirmary affords treatment to some of the residents in the district, but I have not access to their report.

There is also a Hospital at Huntingdon, within reach of part of the district.

The Poor Law Infirmary situated in Thorpe Road, Peterborough is a new building containing 46 beds, also 70 beds for Infirm Persons, under the management of the Board of Guardians ; there is provision for suitable maternity cases.

There is a small hospital for Small Pox, controlled by the Borough Council, situated beyond Fengate, and actually in the area of Thorney Rural District.

Tuberculosis. The Soke of Peterborough C.C. is the authority responsible for the Tuberculosis arrangements ; a Dispensary is established at a house in Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough, where the County Council's Medical Officer attends at specified times, and he also visits patients at their homes when necessary.

Maternity. There is no Maternity Hospital in the district, nor in the City.

Children. There is likewise no Children's Hospital.

Fever. The Borough Council maintains a Fever Hospital accommodating 31 patients.

An arrangement exists whereby the Borough Council will admit cases from the Rural area provided there is room for them, at an agreed sum per week for maintenance, and a fee paid for the use of the ambulance.

Small Pox. The Borough Council also maintains a Small Pox Hospital, containing two wards of four beds each.

The Rural Council, in conjunction with other neighbouring Rural Councils have signed an agreement under which the Borough Council undertakes to accommodate any cases of Small Pox occurring in the Rural District, the various Rural Councils paying a proportionate amount of the up-keep expenses, and of any additional expense during an epidemic. Before this arrangement was made the Rural Council could only expect cases of Small Pox to be admitted if there was room for them.

There are no special hospitals, e.g. Eye Hospitals.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Provision is made for these at the Poor Law Institution, Thorpe Road.

Ambulance Facilities.

(A.) For Infectious Cases.

Your Council does not possess any ambulance, but when a case requires removal from the Rural District the horse ambulance belonging to the Borough Council is utilized to convey the patient to the Isolation Hospital.

(B.) For Infectious and Accident Cases.

The Borough Council have a motor ambulance which can be used by persons requiring it who live outside the Borough at a payment of 5/- for the use of it plus 1/- per mile each way.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries, V.D. Clinic. None of these are provided by the R.D.C.

The Soke of Peterborough County Council provide a Tuberculosis Dispensary and V.D. Clinic at a house in Fitzwilliam Street, managed by the County M.O.H. who also conducts the School Clinics at the various schools in the area.

No In-patient treatment is arranged for, such cases as need it being sent to beds at Sanatorium where the C.C. hire beds, or in the case of surgical tuberculosis the patients are sent if necessary to Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

M.O.H. This is a part-time appointment, your M.O.H. acting in the same capacity for another small rural district, viz. Thorney, and also holding the following public appointments, Assistant Physician to the Infirmary, Medical Officer to the Board of Guardians, and to the Poor Law Infirmary, and Public Vaccinator. There is no Assistant M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Penwill is a whole-time officer, filling the posts of Sanitary Inspector, Building and Sanitary Surveyor, Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, Inspector under the Petroleum Act, Water Works Manager and Engineer.

Mr. Green is Assistant Sanitary Inspector ; both of these officers hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(A). GENERAL. None provided by the R.D.C.

(B). INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No Nurses have been employed at present, but the Council would do so if necessary.

There are nurses working in the following villages, who are employed by private Associations.

No financial assistance is given by the R.D.C.

Health Visitors are employed by the C.C.

Midwives. The R.D.C. does not provide nor subsidise any Midwives. There are practising in the area, registration of them being undertaken by the C.C.

Chemical Work. None.

Legislation in Force. Adoptive Acts.

Part 3 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, relating to sewers adopted for purpose of Byelaws.

Sections 169 and 170 of the Public Health Act 1875, relating to slaughter houses.

Part IV. of the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1925, relating to verminous persons and premises.

Sec. 7 (6) The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. Some of the parishes in the area are wholly or in part supplied with water bought from the Peterborough Corporation, and obtained from their bores at Braceborough and Etton: the villages supplied with water from this source purchased in bulk are:—Walton, Werrington, Paston, Gunthorpe, and parts of Peterborough Without, Eye and Longthorpe.

The remaining Villages obtain water as follows:—

Castor and Ailsworth—wells.

Upton, Sutton—wells.

Helpston—wells and two public bores.

Marholm—wells and a public supply is under consideration, some of the inhabitants get water from a private spring pumped to a standpipe.

Peakirk and Glinton—public bore.

Newborough, Deeping Gate, Etton and Maxey—shallow wells.

Borough Fen and part of Newborough—stored rain water and from drains.

The wells are shallow, the bores tapping the same stratum as that worked at Braceborough and Etton.

The rivers from which water is taken, either directly or from drains linked to them are the Nene and the Welland: both of which, being slow running rivers with no great fall and subject to overflowing at times, bordered for considerable distances by fields

containing stock liable to pollute them, are not desirable sources of supply.

Helpston Paper Mill pollutes a drain emptying into the Welland, from which water flows back into the Folly River, and this river supplies parts of Newborough, Borough Fen.

Deeping Gate and Deeping St. James are capable of polluting the Welland with their sewerage.

Further details of water supply are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's Report:

Drainage and Sewerage.

Walton—W.C.'s.

Werrington, Dogsthorpe, Garton End—some W.C.'s. some privies, which are being converted.

Newark—pails, emptied by R.D.C.

Fengate—Privies and pails, latter emptied by R.D.C. A scheme has been passed for converting these into water closets in the next few months.

Castor and Ailsworth—pails emptied by R.D.C.

Eye—W.C.'s. pails and privies.

The remaining villages are using pails or privies emptied privately.

New drainage was effected to 21 houses, and 17 privies were converted to W.C.'s.

Scavenging. All Walton house refuse is collected and in Dogsthorpe only those houses built by the Corporation Housing Scheme have their refuse collected: the remainder of this parish and all the others dispose of their own refuse.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspection of New Buildings other than Housing Schemes	266
„ for Repairs	201
„ Sanitary	152

Inspection	Offensive Trades	....	..	....	5
„	Cowsheds	....	....	..	279
„	Slaughter Houses	....	....	....	42
„	Bakehouses	....	....	....	16
Testing	Drains	....	....	....	29

The Sanitary Inspections were chiefly in connection with drainage, animals and infectious diseases.

Seven informal notices, by letter or by interview were served and two statutory notices : Mr. Law's pig-yard at Newborough and Mr. Goulty's stable at Fengate are the chief items not yet complied with according to notices delivered.

Smoke Abatement. Nothing done.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations :—

The three sets of premises coming under this heading have been inspected and are carried on as well as the conditions permit, a tannery, two knackers yards.

There are no hop-pickers, no underground sleeping rooms, in the district.

Schools are under the control of the C.C. and except for Infectious Diseases, faulty drainage etc., do not come within the work of your officers. Slaughter Houses, are on the whole in good order, but most of them are old buildings not entirely suitable for the purpose. Adjoining areas were asked to consider the appointment of a whole time inspector under the Slaughter Houses and Meat Shops Order but declined, and no systematic inspection of slaughtering is carried out, the Inspector occasionally supervising : the Council decided against the marking of meat.

Housing.

A number of undesirable houses exist in the district, and there is a considerable demand for new houses : at the time of compiling this report 176 houses are to be built for which there are 301 applicants.

In 1924 there were 20 houses erected in Walton, 14 in Eye.

From 1920 to 1922 there were erected :—Walton 32, Eye 12, Helpston 8, Glinton 6, Maxey 4, Etton 4, Werrington 14, Marholm 6, Ailsworth 10.

There are now being erected :—Borough Fen 8, Newborough 10, Peterborough Without 8, Eye 18, Walton 26. Tenders accepted for :—Etton 4, Maxey 4, Northborough 12, Glinton 8, Peterborough Without 14, Castor 6.

Tenders invited for :—Walton 32, Werrington 12, Helpston 10, Peakirk 4.

Overcrowding.

There is not any extensive overcrowding and such as exists is usually due to the occupier earning comparatively low wages and being unable to pay rent for a larger house if procurable. The cases reported have on investigation proved to be less due to actual lack of space as to difficulty in separating the sexes.

Fitness of Houses.

Fairly good on the whole : there are some old houses which do not comply with modern standards, but are either too old or not likely to repay a reasonable expenditure on renovation. 37 Notices to repair were served of which 34 were complied with. 2 Houses in Peakirk were demolished at the request of the owners. 10 Closing Orders were made, but at present the occupants of several of them must be sent to the Workhouse if the orders are enforced owing to lack of other accommodation.

Several portions of the area, e.g., Borough Fen, Newborough, have not a reasonable water supply, but no suitable supply is available. Peterborough Without refuse disposal is unsatisfactory and should be taken in hand.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(a). Total, 56.

- (b). With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.
 - (1). By Local Authority, 33. (70 in course of construction).

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.

- (1). Total Number of Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects, 43.
 - (2). Number of Dwelling Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 510.
 - (3). Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation, 10.
 - (4). Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 33 (needing repairs).
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice, 14.
3. Action under Statutory Powers.
- (B). Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 - (1). Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 37.
 - (2). Number of Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice,
 - (a). By Owners, 31.
 - (b). By Local Authority in default of Owners, 3.
 - (3). Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 10 (but not effective).

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a). Milk.
 - (1). No action taken by R.D.C. in respect of Tuberculous Milk or Cattle.
 - (2). No licenses granted for the sale of Milk under Special Design.

(3). Refusal to re-Register 8 sets of premises owing to bad condition and general unsuitability.

(4). No Bacteriological examinations of Milk undertaken on behalf of R.D.C.

279 Inspections of Cowsheds were made during the year.

(b). Meat.

(1). No systematic inspection of carcasses at the time of slaughter has been made.

The principle of marking is not approved of by the Council. The carcasses of 4 pigs and of 1 bullock were condemned during the year. There are 10 slaughter houses in the district and 42 inspections were made.

(2). No arrangements have been made regarding Stalls, Shops, Stores, or Vehicles.

(3). There are no Public Slaughter Houses in the district.

Number of Private Slaughter Houses in use at the following dates :—

	1920	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925
Registred	8	10	10

(c). Other Foods.

The inspection of food generally is in the hands of the Police. No arrangements made by R.D.C. for this purpose.

16 Inspections of Bake-houses were made during the year.

(d). No cases of Food Poisoning were recorded.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.
Infectious Disease Generally.

During 1925 there was not much infectious disease in the district, the table below showing the actual number of cases notified.

It is noteworthy that there was only one case of Diphtheria, none of Puerperal Fever, nor of Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever, and one of Enteric Fever. Of the 25 cases of Scarlet Fever, 17

occurred in three families, viz. 8, 3, 6. Measles was moderately prevalent but no deaths were registered as due to this cause.

Epidemic Diarrhoea was conspicuously absent.

Owing to the discovery of two cases of Small Pox in the district it was deemed advisable to make Chicken Pox notifiable for 3 months, during which time 25 cases were notified by Doctors practising in the Area, and several others by School Attendance Officers, parents most of these notification were verified by your M.O.H.

When necessary pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent for examination either to the County M.O.H. or the Clinical Research Association. Diphtheria Antitoxin and other sera supplied by the Ministry are stocked by your M.O.H. and issued to practitioners in suitable cases.

The Schick and Dick tests have not been made use of.

No Primary Vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by your M.O.H. acting in that capacity but after the occurrence of the two cases of Small Pox at Werrington in May a special vaccinating station was opened in the village for a fortnight, during which time your M.O.H. attended every evening (as Public Vaccinator) and 26 persons availed themselves of the opportunity to be vaccinated (12) or re-vaccinated (14).

Influenza caused a moderate amount of sickness in the spring and late autumn, and was mentioned as the primary cause of death in 4 instances.

Cancer is always prevalent in the area and was responsible for 13 deaths, 9 males and 4 females.

Diseases of the Thyroid gland are common in the district, but there is markedly little rickets and anaemia is rapidly disappearing as is the case generally over England. Stone in the kidney or bladder is now seldom met with in the district though a very common complaint a generation ago.

There were no cases of Anthrax or Rabies.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by your Sanitary Officer, but the R.D.C. has no disinfectors for dealing with clothes and other articles, but on occasions the bedding, etc., is disinfected at the Isolation Hospital (Borough Council).

Disease.	Total cases notified (1925)	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Small Pox	2	2	0
Scarlet Fever	25	5	0 (a girl 14, with existing heart dis- ease died when convalescent).
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	1 (22yrs).
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	18		5 (2 months, 56, 58, 66, 55 years).
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	
Erysipelas	4		
Varicella	25		

The following Table shows the incidence of Infectious during the past Five Years, i.e., cases notified.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever	11	6	2	3	25
Diphtheria	4	7	4	8	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	9	9	9	11	18
Erysipelas	1	2	2	4	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0		2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	1	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0		1				1	
1	1						
5			1				1
10	1 1	3					
15	1						
20	1 2		1		1		
25	3 2		1	1			
35	1 1		2	1			
45	1 1						
55							
65 and upwards		1						
	9	8	4	5	2	1	1	1

The Tuberculosis scheme in the district is managed by the County Council through their Medical Officer of Health, and the part played by the Rural Council and its officials is a purely subsidiary one, and to avoid needless overlapping is left almost entirely to the County Officials, except as regards the receipt and transmission of notifications, and the disinfection of premises.

In May a Special Report was sent to the Ministry, dealing with the Out-break of Small Pox at Werrington, a copy of which is appended to this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

M.O.H., Peterborough R.D.C.

May 19th, 1925.

19 MAY 1926

The Secretary,

Ministry of Health.

Sir,

Herewith a preliminary report concerning an outbreak of Small Pox in Peterborough Rural District, in conformation of a telegram sent to you this morning.

A family consisting of Father, Mother, Boys of 22, 11, 7, 3, and a Girl 20, came from Rotherham about a month ago to one of a pair of isolated cottages at a small brick-yard half a mile from the village of Werrington. The son 22 years old was referred to the V.D. Clinic for the continuation of treatment for gonorrhoea begun at Rotherham about Christmas time. When he attended at Dr. C. Rolleston's Clinic, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough on Wednesday 13th inst., he was free from obvious rash, but last night when he went for treatment Dr. Rolleston noticed the rash, communicated with me as he came from my Rural District and after further consultation with Dr. W. Johnstone, M.O.H., for the Borough, it was decided to send the patient forthwith to the Small Pox Hospital ; (there being an arrangement whereby the Borough Authority admits Rural cases).

I wired for a supply of Lymph to " Defender " and am expecting it by rail this morning (I also hold the appointment of Public Vaccinator for Peterborough including the area actually involved).

I have warned practitioners and the neighbouring Public Vaccinator, and am dealing with contacts, school, etc., to-day.

Yours faithfully,

~~H. CLAPHAM~~

Harold Clapham

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Sanitary Inspector, Building and
Sanitary Surveyor, Inspector under
the Housing and Town Planning
Acts, Inspector under the Petroleum
Act, Water Works Manager and
Engineer.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my (nineteenth) Annual Report for the year 1925.

In the month of June, the Council appointed Mr. C. Green as Assistant Sanitary Inspector to help with the extra work occasioned by the Dairies and Cowsheds Order ; and whilst I am engaged on the Housing and the various Engineering Schemes.

Since his appointment he has obtained the Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute, by examination.

Water Supply.

The supply from the Peterborough Corporation Mains has been well maintained except for a few days at Werrington when the Braceborough Main had to be closed down for repairs.

Werrington.

The quantity of water purchased from the Peterborough Corporation was 1,455,000.

Walton.

The quantity purchased during the year was 16,100,000 galls. of which Messrs. Brotherhood and Sage used 7,797,000 gallons.

Peterborough Without.

The quantity purchased has been :—

Dogsthorpe	.....	7,358,000	gallons.
Newark	.....	1,504,000	„
Fengate	.....	1,062,000	„
Total	.....	9,924,000	„

Longthorpe.

The quantity has been 918,000 gallons.

Eye, Gunthorpe and Paston.

The quantities purchased are :—

Eye	.....	5,045,000	gallons.
Gunthorpe	.....	1,077,000	„
Paston	.....	34,000	„

Twenty houses in the Parish of Paston take their supply through the Gunthorpe meter.

The total quantity of water purchased from the Peterborough Corporation during the year has been 30,198,000 gallons.

With the labour at my disposal we make as many inspections possible in the endeavour to detect leaks and re-washer taps to prevent waste.

Schemes have been prepared for providing a supply of water for the Parishes of Marholm and Paston. Application for Loans

to carry out the work has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health, and we are now awaiting the holding of the Inquiries by the Ministry's Inspector, after which it is hoped the work will be able to proceed without delay.

Nothing has come to our knowledge that any steps have been taken to improve the supply to four houses at Borough Fen, owned by the Soke of Peterborough County Council, which was reported in my last year's report.

The new well dug last year in West Street, Helpston, is still unused by the residents who petitioned for it to be dug.

It is shortly to be again cleaned out and a sample analysed.

At the request of a Parishioner, a sample was taken from the boring at Peakirk because at times of extra flow it contained a considerable quantity of solids that appeared to be clay from the unsealed bore hole. The sample was submitted to the County M.O.H. Dr. Rolleston, who asked for a second sample and ultimately reported that he could not pass it for drinking purposes.

If after further investigation, the above report proves to be correct it is rather a serious matter for the Parish :—

1st—Being deprived of an adequate Public supply.

2nd—The loss of the money expended ; there being a considerable amount of the loan still to be paid off.

Housing.

New Buildings.

Plans have been deposited for dwelling houses as follows :—

Werrington	.....	5	Peterborough		Newborough	1
Walton	....	5	Without	.....	Paston	12
Gunthorpe	.....	1	Longthorpe	.....	Eye	1
			Peakirk	.....		2

A total of 32 against 63 in 1924.

The whole are for Owner occupiers or for sale.

The houses erected during the year are :—

Werrington	....	6	Peterborough		Maxey	.....	1
Walton	...	19	Without	.....	Peakirk	....	1
			Gunthorpe	....			6

A total of 36 as against 11 in 1924.

The houses in course of erection (exclusive of the Housing Scheme) are as follows :—

Walton	.....	4	Werrington	.....	2	Longthorpe...	1
Paston	.....	1	Peterborough				
			Without	....	1		

A total of 9 as against 29 in 1924.

Subsidy Houses.

80 Subsidies have been granted.

The particulars relating to the year in review are as follows :—

Plans deposited	....	.....	....	22
Completed	.....	.....	....	33
Being erected	.....	....	....	1

Several houses built at Walton, although completed several months ago, are still unoccupied, which tends to show that the persons who require houses do not wish to own them.

Six subsidies were cancelled because the land was sold.

Seventeen have lapsed because the time for which they were allowed has passed and they have not commenced building, chiefly because the ones already built have not been sold.

Housing Scheme.

A scheme has been decided upon to provide 176 houses in various Parishes as follows :—

Walton 50, Peterborough Without 22, Werrington 20, Eye 18, Northborough 12, Newborough 10, Helpston 10, Glington 8, Borough Fen 8, Paston 6, Maxey 4, Etton 4, Peakirk 4.

So as not to delay the building of houses, the scheme has been divided into three sections to help the building trade and some sites take more negotiating for than others.

The first section comprises Walton (Paston Lane) 26, Eye (Crowland Road) 12 and (Eyebury Street) 6, Newborough (Crown Road) 10, Peterborough Without (Dogsthorpe) 8, Borough Fen (Baxter's Bridge) 4, and (Red Cow Inn) 4.

The second section consists of 48 houses, of which the particulars are now before the Ministry of Health for approval.

The houses are distributed as follows :—

Fengate 14, Northborough 12, Glington 8, Castor 4, Maxey 4, Etton 4.

The decision as to the Castor site will be arrived at after a well has been dug to see if water can be obtained.

The third section comprises :—

Walton 32, Werrington 12, Helpston 10, Peakirk 4.

The sites for these houses are being negotiated for.

In respect of Werrington a Sub-Committee met the Owner of the most suitable site for the purpose, taking all things into consideration, but he was unwilling to sell the site to the Council as he said he wished to sell it in separate plots.

The Council have received a petition that they shall not build on the alternative site (Lincoln Rd.) selected, therefore the matter is awaiting decision.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

43 Fresh houses have been inspected.

37 Notices to repair served.

34 Notices to repair complied with.

2 Demolished.

10 Closing Orders made.

The two houses demolished were at Peakirk and were demolished at the wish of the Owners.

These had been under observation for a number of years but no steps were taken as long as the very old tenants were alive.

A few of the houses upon which Closing Orders stand are unoccupied and the others are in a deplorable condition and several positively dangerous to the inmates and the Public, but, owing to the shortage of houses there is no other accommodation except the workhouse.

Closing Orders have been made before on several of the houses but have become inoperative because the building of the new houses was not taken advantage of, and because many of the tenants could not afford the then increased rents.

Hitherto it has been the policy of the Council to accept out of the numerous applicants, those having the best credentials and those have not always turned out to be the most desirable tenants.

If the old and very depalidated property is to be dealt with, the Council must accept the occupiers as tenants of the houses to be built.

Some of them who cannot now be classed as desirable, would, if put in better surroundings and with a little supervision, possibly become decent citizens.

The policy of the Council in future should be, first to put the tenants (good or bad) of the delapidated and condemned houses into the new houses.

In three instances the Owner failed to comply with the Notices in the given time, and the Council has given instructions for the work to be carried out, which has been done for : £6 13s. 11d., £7 10s. 11d. and £20 9s. 6d., the amounts to be recovered from the Owners.

Town Planning.

For several years I urged the necessity of proceeding with a Town Planning Scheme but when a start was being made the Peter-

borough Corporation said that they would prepare a scheme which would include any portion of the Council's area that would require to be dealt with, but up to the present nothing has been done, or at least, nothing that is apparent.

In the meantime, the Northfield's Estate, which lies between Lincoln Road, St. Paul's Road and Dogsthorpe Road, has been purchased and is being, as a commercial venture, sold in very small plots so as to squeeze the maximum number of houses on the area, thereby closing for ever the only site for a good main road out of the City to relieve Lincoln Road, which now has to carry the whole of the traffic to the North.

The Peterborough Corporation are developing their property in the Parish of Longthorpe (known as Mayor's Walk Extension).

A Committee of the Council met a Committee of the Town Council and verbally agreed upon the administration of the Public Services (Roads, Sewers, Water Supply, etc.) since then nothing more has been heard.

We have received several plans for houses shown plotted on a piece of land, and I have nothing whatever to show whether the houses are so spaced as to comply with the Council's Bye-laws or not

Offensive Trades.

There are only 3 known premises used under this heading and they are conducted as well as the conditions permit.

Slaughter Houses.

The slaughter houses in the district are mostly in good order but the old buildings are still with us.

One slaughter house at Ailsworth is used as a coach house and the occupier has been warned several times that if it is again found to be so used the Council will be asked to take proceedings.

When the slaughter house and Meat Shops Order, 1924, was received, the Council circulated all the surrounding districts with a view to appointing jointly an experienced Meat Inspector.

All the Authorities, without exception, turned down the suggestion, and the Order is to-day in every District a dead letter and the usual Sanitary Inspector's duties respecting Slaughter houses goes on as before.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious diseases dealt with by me and enumerated in the following table is 29 as against 9 in 1924.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Small Pox
Werrington	6			
Paston	1			
Walton	1		1	
Peterboro' Without	5			
Maxey		1		
Castor	3			
Upton	9			
Total	25	1	1	2—29

This is a sudden increase, being the highest since 1920 when there were 36 cases.

Of the 9 cases at Upton, 8 were children of one family and probably one or two were in an advanced stage before being discovered and the other case at Upton and those at Castor were no doubt due to the children attending the same school.

Five of the cases at Werrington were children of one family, and fortunately the outbreak did not spread. One of them died but from other causes.

The other case at Werrington was a married lady on a visit and possibly she brought it with her and it ended there.

Excluding the Werrington, Upton and Castor outbreaks, it brings the number of separate outbreaks down to 11 and none of these were traced as having any connection with another.

Six cases of Scarlet Fever were removed from the district during the year to the Peterborough Corporation Isolation Hospital. Some of the expense has been defrayed by the patients.

The source of the case of Enteric at Walton was not traced. The patient lived at Stamford and spent only Saturday to Monday each week at her home at Walton.

I regret to say she died in the Isolation Hospital.

The cases of Small Pox were at one of two isolated houses on the Lincoln Road, between Werrington and Glington.

The family had only just arrived from Rotherham (an infected area) and very probably some of the younger children were then infected. The case was discovered by Dr. Rolleston when the patient attended the County Council Clinic in Fitzwilliam Street, and was sent direct to the Small Pox Hospital.

The other case was a girl who came home for a few days and no doubt contracted it from her brother and was also removed to the Hospital.

The family and the one in the adjoining house were put in quarantine and isolated. Provision was made for all food and other necessities to be sent to them. I myself, with the assistance of James Crowson did the necessary disinfecting, we were both vaccinated.

The bedding was disinfected in the Peterborough Corporation Steam Disinfector.

Fortunately, although the possibly infected younger children had been attending the Glington School and the male patient riding in Public vehicles and attending places of amusement, the outbreak ended with these two cases.

All the houses where infectious cases have occurred have been disinfected.

Scavenging.

The removal of House Refuse at Walton has been carried out by Contract, without complaint.

The tip was no longer available and the Contractor is at present disposing of it, but the Council must expect at any moment to have to face the question of disposal.

Last year a Special Report was made to the Council on the collection and disposal of the house refuse of Walton, Peterborough Without and Werrington, but the matter was then postponed at the wish of the Peterborough Corporation Officials who stated that some means were being devised to deal with the refuse from the North side of the Town and that this Council should co-operate.

Since then nothing has been heard and it must be assumed the matter is dropped and therefore should be taken up seriously and dealt with, as the large increase in the number of houses being built in this area is making it become a serious menace to health.

There are two methods that can be adopted, incineration or motor transports to a tip offered at Werrington.

From the information and figures collected and given in the report last year, it would appear that carting to the tip, owing to its distance from the collecting area, is the most expensive, and there is no reason to think that conditions have altered since then.

The inhabitants of Dogsthorpe and Garton End have complained very bitterly because they have to help to pay for the collection of refuse from the houses owned by the Peterborough Corporation, although they being in the same road do not get equal treatment.

Overcrowding.

Nothing has been able to be done during this year to alter what overcrowding that may exist in the district.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year the drainage of 3 houses at Dogsthorpe, 7 at

Walton and 17 at Werrington have been connected to the sewers and all were tested before they were covered in.

The particulars of pumping at the various Pumping Stations are as follows :—

Station.	Hours	Engines Worked.	Times Motors Worked
Walton	398	1791
Dogsthorpe	224	783
Werrington	498	
Garton End		1226

The figures for 1924 were :—

Walton	.....	498	1674
Dogsthorpe	.....	182	915
Werrington	.....	642	
Garton End	.....		1129

The new pump fixed at Walton last year still proves to be more efficient and suitable for the purpose than the ones originally installed.

It is quite apparent that at all the stations the amount of sewage to be pumped is increasing, but it is quite impossible to give any figures as to the quantities pumped or as to the efficiency of any of the plant.

I feel confident that if meters were installed so that the labour, fuel and power could be checked, their cost would be saved many times over.

Since the fixing of the new pump at Walton the Engine has been rather overworked owing to the pump lifting all the solid matter and after more than a years delay by the Contractors a more powerful motor and interchanging gear is being installed to work the more efficient pump.

All the electrical equipment is being changed from the Tramway Co.'s supply to a supply direct from the Peterborough Corporation Power Station when a full 24 hour service will be received in place of the very intermittent and unreliable supply experienced in the past.

The drainage of the Paston and Gunthorpe area has again been considered and a scheme is to be prepared to drain the fast growing group of houses.

After two years hard work the scheme for the drainage of Fengate will be shortly ready for inviting tenders, when it is hoped the work will be able to proceed at once.

The question of the drainage of the village of Peakirk has taken up considerable time and thought, but nothing has come of it and the matter still stands in abeyance.

The Eye Sewage Disposal Works are overhauled and given attention to once a week. This, during wet weather is not enough and it would be better for the working of the works if some one could attend there a short time each day (perhaps the roadman) to keep the works running smoothly.

The shed for the tumbler cart has been removed to the works so that the sludge from the tanks could be placed each week direct into the cart and the Parish Council undertook to get the cart emptied but this is not regularly done which causes inconvenience and extra labour.

Night soil has been collected at Castor, Ailsworth, Fengate and Newark by Contract, without complaint.

The Agricultural Society improved the conveniences at their Show Ground during the Summer Show by placing metal gutters discharging into pits. This was a decided improvement, but still far from what it should be.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

During the early part of the year all the cowsheds were inspected and those occupiers who had not complied with the sub-committee's requirements, had further warning that they would not be registered. During the latter part of the year, owing to the Foot and Mouth Disease being in the surrounding districts, and although there was no instructions to that effect, I refrained from doing much inspection so as not to cause complaint from the Dairy Farmers.

The Police were given a list of persons who had not complied with the Notices, with the result that several have discontinued selling milk and others have quickened up the repairs and alterations necessary.

Now the district is apparently free from disease, inspection will be proceeded with more vigorously with a view to getting milk produced under better conditions.

It is understood that the Ministry of Health will soon issue Regulations to govern the remaining provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, which came in force on Sept. 25th, 1925.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. Bennett